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recur strictly to those letters in the instances where they had been deviated from by Flamsteed or others, it is to be regretted that an exception should have been introduced in the case of this star and of Fl. 85.

"Our respected President, in his 12-year catalogue, has retained the old and familiar appellation, inclosing it, however, between brackets.

"An inspection of the map shows that the star can most easily be included within the contour of *Cetus*."

**On a new Variable Star.* By Mr. Hind.

On the 4th of November a fiery-looking star, of the seventh magnitude, was discovered by Mr. Hind at Mr. Bishop's observatory, Regent's Park, in a position where there is no record of one having been observed previously. It is situate near the star numbered 400 in Hora I. of Weisse's Catalogue, and called a ninth magnitude by Bessel, and is preceded by another, also of the ninth magnitude, at an interval of $9^{s}\cdot1$ and $5' 21''$ further north. The mean place of this variable star for the commencement of 1850 is,

R.A. $1^{h} 22^{m} 54^{s}\cdot48$ N.P.D. $87^{\circ} 53' 39''\cdot5$.

This star is not noticed by Lalande or Bessel, and does not occur on the excellent map recently published by the Berlin Academy, which was formed by Professor Olüfsen, of Copenhagen. There appears no doubt of its proving an interesting variable star. It is worthy of remark that the ruby or fiery colour is precisely similar to that which characterises several other stars, known to be of changeable brilliancy, which have been detected at Mr. Bishop's observatory during the last five years.

Mean Places of this Star. By M. C. Rümker.

1850.	h m s	° ′ ″
Nov. 16	1 22 54·02	+2 6 22·0
26	54·19	23·1

**Change of Colour in a Fixed Star.* By Mr. J. R. Hind.

"With the single exception of a somewhat doubtful alteration in the appearance of *Sirius*, I am not aware that there exists any mention of a decided *change* of colour in a fixed star. I am able to supply one from my own observations during the last two years of stars lying near the ecliptic. On September 3, 1848, one of a '*very red*' colour was entered on a chart in right ascension, $5^{h} 34^{m}\cdot8$; north polar distance, $68^{\circ} 54'$ for 1800; there are other

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* The papers with an asterisk prefixed were in type at the time of publishing the preceding Number, but were postponed, as the publication would have been inconvenient for binding. A memoir by Mr. John Riddle is not inserted in the present Number, as it would then overrun two sheets, and incur a 4*d.* postage.

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stars of a ruddy tinge in the neighbourhood. As I have repeatedly met with reddish variable stars, this object has been closely watched since the above date, but no alteration was perceived till the evening of November 14, in the present year, when I found the star decidedly *bluish*, the red tinge having vanished entirely. Perhaps it would now be most accurately described as *bluish white*. I am not able to furnish the exact position of this star, but the rough place above given will be quite near enough to ensure the observation of the right object."

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*Mr. Boreham remarks, "The star Argelander Zone 5, No. 26, does not exist."

"There is a star with a declination (1850·0) + 54° 40′ 21″·8, which agrees with it in R.A. It is probably the same as B.A.C. 4845 = Groombridge 2138."

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*Mr. John Drew, F.R.A.S., of Southampton, has sent an extract from his observing-book, which shows very clearly that his sidereal time may be relied on to a small portion of a second. Mr. Drew has replaced his original transit by a transit-circle, which, however, as yet has only been employed in observing right ascensions.

Mr. Stebbing, who has charge of the chronometers of the steamboats from Southampton, has taken Mr. Drew's transit, and proposes to find the rates and errors of his chronometers by astronomical observations.†

On the Influence exerted by Heat upon the Dispersive and Refractive Power of Liquids. Preliminary Observations.

By Rev. T. Pelham Dale.

This paper contains a numerical statement of the values found by the use of Professor Powell's apparatus (formerly employed for the determination of values communicated by Professor Powell to the British Association, and now lent by him to Mr. Dale), for the indices of refraction of Fraunhofer's lines, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, in distilled water, alcohol, Fusel oil, pyroxalic spirit, and bisulphuret of carbon, at temperatures ranging (for the most part) from 10° to 35° centigrade.

It does not appear that similar measures have been made before these.

The author describes in detail the method of using the apparatus. He remarks, however, that though the change of refractive index in general is obtained with great accuracy, the charge of irrationality can hardly be deduced from these measures.

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† It is to be hoped that this example will be followed. Accidents at sea, owing to bad chronometers or imperfect compasses, *ought* to be reckoned with things that *have* been. There *need* not be any casualties arising from such causes.

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